



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy and Procedure #4.313

Inmate Mental Health Services

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Authority: Wyoming Statute(s): 25-1-104; 25-1-105 ACA Standard(s): 4-4368-R; 4-4370-R; 4-4371-R; 4-4372-R; 4374; 1-ABC-4E-27 NCCHC Standard(s): P-E-05; P-G-04	Effective Date: July 30, 2015 Revision/Review History: 06/01/14 06/15/13 07/01/12 08/15/10 Summary of Revision/Review: Updates existing policy pursuant to annual review.
Cross Reference of Policy:	Supersedes Existing Policy :
Approved: R.O. Lampert Robert O. Lampert, Director	
7-17-15 Date	

APPROVED FOR INMATE DISTRIBUTION

REFERENCE

1. ATTACHMENTS – None Noted
2. OTHER – None Noted



I. PURPOSE

- A. **Mental Health Services.** The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish uniform guidelines by which inmates incarcerated in Wyoming Department of Corrections (WDOC) facilities are provided mental health services.

II. POLICY

- A. **Mental Health Services.** It is the policy of the WDOC that mental health services shall be available for all inmates who require them and that these services provide, at a minimum, an initial mental health screening upon intake to the WDOC. (ACA 4-4368 Revised, 4-4370 Revised; NCCHC P-E-05, P-G-04)
- B. **Mental Health Appraisal.** It is the policy of the WDOC that all intersystem inmate transfers receive a mental health appraisal by a qualified mental health professional within fourteen (14) days after arrival at the facility, unless there is documented evidence of a mental health appraisal within the previous ninety (90) days. (ACA 4-4371 Revised; NCCHC P-E-05)

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Health Care Services:** Comprehensive medical, dental, vision, mental health and special services provided by a contract medical services provider.
- B. **Mental Health Services:** Comprehensive services that include the use of a variety of psychosocial and pharmacological therapies, either individual or group, including biological, psychological, and social, to alleviate symptoms, attain optimal level of functioning, and prevent relapse.
- C. **Mental Health Staff:** *(For this policy only.)* Qualified health care professionals who have received instruction and supervision in identifying and interacting with individuals in need of mental health services.
- D. **Qualified Mental Health Professionals:** Include psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurses, and others who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental health needs of patients.
- E. **Violent Behavior:** *(For this policy only.)* Expressive violence initiated as a result of an interpersonal altercation where the goal is to injure the other



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person, or instrumental violence where the goal is to get something from the person (usually the result of criminal intent). An understanding of the history of either form of violence and the circumstances leading to the specific behavior is helpful in assessing the inmate's potential for further violent behavior.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Mental Health Services. Mental health services shall be provided by the contract medical services provider or by a contracted mental health services provider, as determined by WDOC. These services shall include but are not limited to: (ACA 4-4368 Revised; NCCHC P-G-04, P-E-05)

1. screening on intake;
 - i. Positive screenings indicating a need for a more in-depth evaluation shall be forwarded to mental health professionals for further evaluation and treatment.
 - ii. Prior treatment records shall be requested as needed.
2. outpatient services for the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness;
 - i. The mental health services provider shall provide psychotropic medication management.
 - ii. Treatment plans shall be developed for each inmate requiring mental health care.
 - a. Inmates receiving mental health services shall be seen as clinically indicated.
 - b. Inmates with chronic mental illness shall be seen as prescribed in their individual treatment plan.
 - c. The discharge plan shall be included in the treatment plan.
 - iii. Services shall include treatment documentation and follow-up.
 - iv. Recommendations and referrals from non-medical personnel (*i.e.*, clergy, correctional officers, *etc.*) for an inmate to be seen by mental health will be accepted.



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3. crisis intervention and management of acute psychiatric episodes;
4. stabilization of the mentally ill and the prevention of psychiatric deterioration in the correctional setting;
5. elective therapy (*i.e.*, short-term individual, group therapy, *etc.*) and preventative treatment where resources permit;
6. provision for referral and admission to mental health facilities for inmates whose psychiatric needs exceed the treatment capability of the facility;
 - i. When commitment or transfer to an inpatient psychiatric setting is clinically indicated, required procedures shall be followed and the transfer shall occur in a timely manner.
 - ii. Until such time as the transfer can be accomplished, the inmate shall be safely housed and adequately monitored.
7. procedures for obtaining and documenting informed consent when appropriate; and
8. coordinated care.
 - i. Mental health, health care services, and substance abuse shall be sufficiently coordinated such that inmate management is appropriately integrated, health needs are met, and the impact of any of these conditions on each other is adequately addressed.

B. Mental Health Screens. Mental health screens shall be performed by mental health staff on all inmates upon arrival at a WDOC facility. All intersystem and intra-system transfer inmates will receive an initial mental health screening at the time of admission to the facility by a mental health trained or qualified mental health care professional. (ACA 4-4370 Revised; NCCHC P-E-05)

1. **Mental Health Screen Inquiries.** The inquiries made during the initial mental health screen shall include but are not limited to:
 - i. whether the inmate has a present suicide ideation;
 - ii. whether the inmate has a history of suicidal behavior;



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- iii. whether the inmate is presently prescribed psychotropic medication;
 - iv. whether the inmate has a current mental health complaint;
 - v. whether the inmate is being treated for mental health problems;
 - vi. whether the inmate has a history of inpatient and/or outpatient psychiatric treatment;
 - vii. whether the inmate has a history of treatment for substance abuse;
 - viii. whether the inmate has a history of victimization; and
 - ix. whether the inmate has a history of sex offenses.
 - 2. **Mental Health Screen Observations.** The observations made during the initial mental health screen shall include but are not limited to:
 - i. the inmate's general appearance and behavior;
 - ii. evidence of abuse and/or trauma; and
 - iii. current symptoms of psychosis, depression, anxiety, and/or aggression.
 - 3. **Mental Health Disposition of Inmate.** Housing disposition of all inmates who receive a mental health screen shall be documented as follows:
 - i. to the general population;
 - ii. to the general population with appropriate referral to mental health care services; or
 - iii. referral to appropriate mental health care service for emergency treatment.
- C. **Mental Health Appraisal.** All intersystem inmate transfers shall receive a mental health appraisal by a qualified mental health professional within fourteen (14) days of arrival at a WDOC facility. (ACA 4-4371 Revised)



1. If there is documented evidence of a mental health appraisal within the previous ninety (90) days, a new mental health appraisal is not required, except as determined by the designated mental health authority.
2. The following shall be reviewed during the appraisal:
 - i. available historical records of inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment;
 - ii. history of treatment with psychotropic medication;
 - iii. history of psychotherapy, psycho-educational groups, and classes or support groups;
 - iv. history of drug and alcohol treatment;
 - v. educational history;
 - vi. history of sexual abuse victimization; and
 - vii. history of predatory behavior.
3. Mental health appraisals shall include but not be limited to the following assessments:
 - i. current mental status and condition;
 - ii. current suicidal potential and person-specific circumstances that increase suicide potential;
 - iii. violence potential and person-specific circumstances that increase violence potential;
 - iv. drug and/or alcohol abuse and/or addiction; and
 - v. additional assessment tools as indicated.
4. Inmates shall be referred to treatment as indicated based on the review and assessments above.
5. Treatment plans, including recommendations concerning housing, job assignment, and program participation, shall be developed and implemented, as indicated.



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D. Mental Health Evaluations. Inmates referred for mental health treatment shall receive a comprehensive evaluation by a qualified mental health practitioner and/or multidisciplinary mental health team. Such evaluations shall be completed within fourteen (14) days of the referral request date. (ACA 4-4372 Revised, 1-ABC-4E-27)

1. Mental health evaluations shall include at least the following: (ACA 4-4372 Revised, 1-ABC-4E-27; NCCHC P-E-05)
 - i. review of mental health screening and appraisal data;
 - ii. direct observation of the inmate's behavior;
 - iii. collection and review of additional data from individual diagnostic interviews and tests assessing personality, intellect, and coping abilities;
 - iv. compilation of the inmate's mental health history; and
 - v. development of an overall treatment/management plan with appropriate referral to include transfer to a mental health facility for offenders whose psychiatric needs exceed the treatment capability of the facility.

E. Mental Illness and Developmental Disability. Inmates with severe mental illness or who are severely developmentally disabled shall receive a mental health evaluation and, where appropriate, shall be referred for placement in non-correctional facilities or units specifically designated for handling this type of individual. (ACA 4-4374)

V. TRAINING POINTS

- A. Give three (3) components of the intake mental health screen.
- B. How long after an inmate arrives at a WDOC facility will the mental health appraisal be completed?
- C. Give three (3) components of the mental health appraisal.